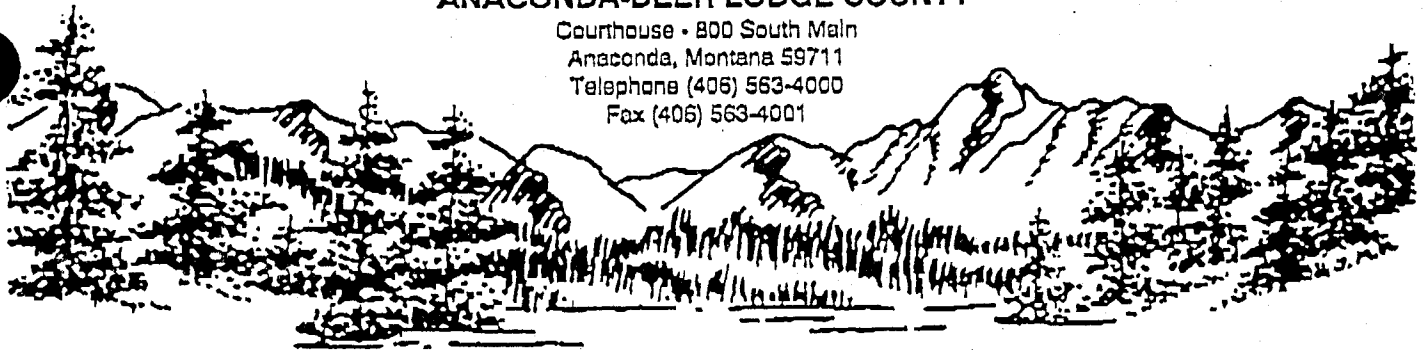


ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY

Courthouse • 800 South Main
Anaconda, Montana 59711
Telephone (406) 563-4000
Fax (406) 563-4001



January 8, 2007

Chairman Rick Ripley
Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Commerce
Attn.: Ann Desch
Montana Department of Commerce
Business Resources Division
301 S. Park Ave.
P.O. Box 200505
Helena MT 59620-0505

Re: Montana Main Street Program

Dear Chairman Ripley:

I am writing to express Anaconda-Deer Lodge County's strong support for the continuation of the Montana Main Street Program. As a Montana Main Street Community, we are excited about the opportunity to use the Four Point Main Street Approach to develop a public-private effort to revitalize Anaconda's downtown Main Street area.

The technical assistance provided to our community by the Montana Main Street Program will have a positive impact on our struggling economy, help prevent business "leakage" from our downtown and help to preserve Anaconda's rich, historic, architectural tapestry.

Again, I urge you to continue the Montana Main Street Program and its efforts to preserve Montana's unique history while revitalizing local economics.

Respectfully,

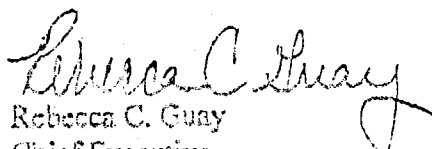

Rebecca C. Guay
Chief Executive



EXHIBIT 8
DATE 1/9/07
HB 2

January 5, 2007

Chairman Rick Ripley
Budget Subcommittee on
Natural Resources Division
Montana Legislature

Chairman Ripley,

It is our pleasure to write to you in support of our Montana Main Street Program. We are one of the newest programs in Montana, with our Anaconda Main Street Program "Day One" kick off training taking place just six months ago, in May of 2006. Since that time, we have opened our Main Street office, created a board of directors, and selected an Executive Director, worked with the Montana Economic Developers Association and Headwaters RC&D to complete an intensive Community Resource Assessment and with the Montana Main Street Program and the University of Montana Business Department to provide a marketing analysis for our community. In addition to those projects, we have completed a number of community beautification projects, participated in several community events and are participating in efforts to bring other community organizations together to move Anaconda towards positive economic vitality.

The Montana Main Street Program together with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center has provided us with the tools, the direction and proven methods to develop our program and our efforts of economic revitalization and historic preservation.

We include the following information so you will see the total commitment our organization has to our community.

Our vision: *The Main Street District of Anaconda is a thriving and sustainable commercial center for the community and all who visit."*

Our mission: *As a non profit community based organization is to assist in enhancing and revitalizing the Anaconda main street district using the Main Street Program's four points of design, promotion, organization and economic restructuring to fulfill our vision."*

Our Goals:

- To save Anaconda's unique character
- To preserve our heritage
- To rebuild the vitality of the downtown streets
- To bring people back downtown
- To increase public and private investment in Anaconda's business district
- To retain and attract retail businesses
- To understand the downtown's economic development needs and recognize opportunities for directing and managing downtown change
- To ensure an adequately funded, expertly managed organization
- To advocate and promote the betterment of the commercial district

We intend to meet those goals through the four point committees and the eight guiding principals of the National Main Street Center and the following focus:

- **Image:** Promote downtown Anaconda as an attractive, vital, prosperous, and safe location for business ownership, shopping, recreation, and tourism. This will involve perpetuating an image of Anaconda's Main Street area as a center of commerce and social activities.
- **Historic Preservation:** Preserving and improving the historic architecture of the Main Street Program area will assure that the local charm, character, and atmosphere of the historic downtown are protected. Physical improvements in the Main Street Program area, such as streetscape planning, will be performed in a method that is cohesive throughout the downtown area and sensitive to the historical identity of the community.
- **Business retention, expansion, and recruitment:** We will strive to determine methods of supporting existing businesses so that they may remain vital and achieve their own goals for growth. We will determine market niches that are not being met in the community, and find methods to implement positive changes in the business mix of the Main Street Program area as needs arise.
- **Special events:** Existing special events will be continued and expanded where appropriate, with a specific goal to increase foot traffic in the Main Street Program area. New events will be generated by Main Street to showcase historic downtown Anaconda as a commercial and social hub.
- **Support:** Main Street will facilitate community partnerships with organizations and individuals to assure long-term sustainability of the Main Street Initiative by means of financial support and an active volunteer base. Anaconda Main Street will in turn develop methods of supporting economic revitalization in the Main Street Program area, for the betterment of the community.

Chairman Ripley and Committee, please provide the required financial support for the continuation of the Montana Main Street Program. It is imperative to our community and to our organization. In short, our organization would not exist today if it were not for the Montana Main Street Program's commitment to provide the technical training, direction and assistance required to start our program and continued support to building our program and the assist in the revitalization of Anaconda.

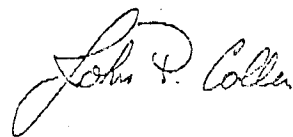
Betsy Pahut

John Collin



President

Anaconda Main Street Program



Executive Director

Anaconda Main Street Program

EXHIBIT 3

DATE 1/9/07

HB 2

January 7 2007

Chairman Rick Ripley
Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Commerce
Helena MT

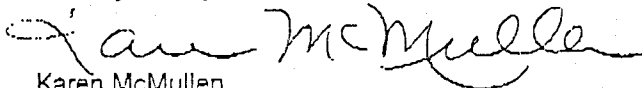
Chairman Ripley,

As a board member of the Polson Community Development Agency I am asking you to support the **Montana Main Street Program** in this legislative session.

Polson is one of the first Montana Main Street Communities designated in 2006. I find the model utilized by MAIN STREET has been helpful in getting our town organized and energized to make great changes in our revitalization efforts. The program design brings the city government on board and develops a large volunteer pool to make things happen. Polson has talked about change for many years, but with our Main Street Designation THINGS ARE HAPPENING. If any funding could be attached to this program for local start up funds, it would make the program even more effective.

So many Montana Communities need this help in their revitalization process.

Thank you for your support.



Karen McMullen
PCDA Board and
Design Chair for Polson Montana Main Street Program



M A I N S T R E E T U P T O W N B U T T E

January 7, 2007

Chairman Rick Ripley, Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Commerce,

With this letter Mainstreet Uptown Butte, an organization of 175 members including 125 small businesses in Butte would like to express our enthusiastic support for the continuation of the statewide Montana Main Street program.

In 1977, in response to the flight of businesses from historic downtowns, the National Trust for Historic Preservation developed a four-point program to help preserve businesses as well as buildings.

Mainstreet Uptown Butte is a 501(c)(3) non-profit incorporated in June 1999 and affiliated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Since 1999, with the continued support of three different local government administrations, Butte's Main Street program has worked to preserve and rejuvenate Butte's traditional central business district, Uptown Butte.

The Main Street program uses historic preservation as an economic development tool. If local businesses stay healthy and strong in a historic district, they will help preserve historic buildings by attracting investment and commerce to the area. The basic idea that business growth and historic preservation are compatible and supportive of one another has been proven successful in small towns and urban neighborhoods in more than 1,800 communities across the country.

The Main Street approach is one of several influences working on what many are calling a renaissance in Butte's Uptown. The results are dramatic to anyone who has visited our city in the last few years. Butte is cleaner and greener, and at night it is brighter and safer and the economy of its historic district is stronger with many formerly vacant buildings serving as storefronts for viable businesses that previously did not exist.

The four-point Main Street approach -- using design, promotion, organization and economic development -- is an effective mix that is well suited for the independent spirit of Montana communities. The program builds on a community's assets. Through the concentrated efforts of the program, volunteers with a wide range of interests, talents and skills are provided the tools and resources to perform service that enhances the well being of their community. The program bridges political philosophies by finding common purpose in the protection and perpetuation of what is best about our communities.

Butte's program will continue because the community recognizes the program's excellent return on investment and tangible benefits. We hope to see more Main Street programs nurtured across Montana. Every Montana community is different with its own obstacles and assets but we all also share the common interests of preserving our rich and varied Montana heritage while ensuring the vitality of our traditional downtowns for future generations.

We believe that the widespread application of a proven program like Main Street in Montana communities is an excellent way to reach these widely shared goals of economic vitality for our great state.

Sincerely,

George Everett
Executive Director

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 1/7/07

Red Lodge Area Economic Development



P O Box 454 Red Lodge Montana 59068

January 4, 2007

Rick Ripley, Chairman
Budget Subcommittee
Natural Resources and Commerce
Montana House of Representatives

RE: Montana Main Street Program

Dear Chairman Ripley:

The City of Red Lodge was chosen as one of the new Montana Main Street communities this past year, and we want you and your fellow committee members to know we believe this program is a strong economic development tool for Montana communities. We strongly believe the Main Street "Four Point Approach" for revitalizing the historic district within Red Lodge is a most workable and desirable program, and we believe the approach can help many of our sister Montana cities in the future.

We petition you to fully fund this program at the state level. The return on investment to Montana will be very positive in the future by increasing building values, saving historic buildings and making our small businesses, the backbone of local economies, stronger and more profitable.

In Red Lodge we are in the formation stages of the program and we are already seeing major impacts.

- We are developing a streetscape design for our main street in conjunction with CTA Architects/Engineers
- We are working to develop a revolving loan program to rehabilitate our historic buildings
- The community worked to have 24 historic lights placed along Broadway, our main street
- We are working to have one major building at the outskirts of town placed on the National Register

In short, we believe this program is an important economic development tool and should be fully funded at the state level.

Sincerely yours,

Laura Getz, Chairman

Don Kinney, Project Manager

RECEIVED



Stevensville Main Street Association

P.O. BOX 18
Stevensville, MT, 59870

January 5, 2007

Chairman, Rick Ripley
Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Commerce
Helena, Montana

Re: State Main Street Program—State Department of Commerce—2007 Legislative Session

This communication from the Stevensville Main Street Association, Stevensville, MT is a letter of support to continue funding for the State Main Street Program. Our Main Street Program has been in operation since 2000. This Organization was formed by a group of business owners, property owners, local bankers and concerned citizens concerned for the decline of Historic Stevensville's downtown commercial area. The downtown area consists of approximately 3 and ½ blocks of historic buildings and business properties. In that space there were 6 empty buildings and failing businesses leaving town after short-term attempts. Needless to say that was a very negative perception of the Stevensville area.

The group formed and followed the Main Street Approach hiring an Executive Director with a budget secured through 3-year pledges from contributors who were literally buying a vision. Our program did well changing the face of our Main Street and making it a desirable destination to do business and shop. We did not have access to a State Program and had requested the National office to assist us, however, being a distance away and no State Program to work through we were still on our own. Then the Montana Main Street Program was started and we applied to be a Certified State Program. We have worked closely with the State Program Coordinator, pilot programs and interested communities. It has been extremely helpful to our community to have the State Program to assist and answer questions, keep us informed of the different opportunities available and a State networking unit that keeps us connected and exploring areas for economic opportunities as well as retention and preservation of our Historical locations. The reports that we file with the state work 2 fold for us helping us to quantify the investment and expansion going on in our town, which is a good measure of the success of the program.


Stevensville is one of 98 communities in the State of Montana with a population under 2000 and the only one in that category with a Main Street Program. Our downtown buildings are filled up with business, property values have increased and the town of Stevensville is a desirable destination for locals as well as visitors. Having a State program for training that can be tailored to our state needs is so very helpful and aids in the success of our programs. .

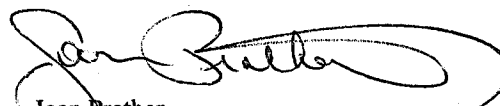
If a town has the desire to follow the program, recruit volunteers, and revitalize their town's business and historic districts those actions produce a win for the state as well as the community. Supporting their efforts with a State program is critical to survival of their programs.

Please support the State Main Street Program by including funding for its continuation in the 2007 State Budget.

We invite you to visit Stevensville, Montana – established in 1841, "Where Montana Began."

Sincerely,


Victoria Howell
President


Joan Brather
Executive Director



Libby Revitalization, Inc.

EXHIBIT 8

DATE 1/9/07

HB 2

P.O. BOX 677
LIBBY, MONTANA 59923

406-293-7792
406-293-4090 FAX

Chairman Rick Ripley
Budget Subcommittee on Natural
Resources and Commerce
C/O Ann Desch
Montana Department of Commerce
Business Resources Division
301 S. Park Ave.
P.O. Box 200505
Helena MT 59620-0505

January 5, 2007

Dear Mr. Ripley,

On behalf of the Libby Main Street Program, we would like to express our support of the Montana Main Street Program. Libby started its program in 2003 as a self-initiated program. We have seen tremendous positive results due to use of the Main Street Approach, and have had even more successes since becoming a "mature" program under the Montana Main Street Program. The state program has provided us with technical assistance, training opportunities and public relations that we most likely would not have been able to accomplish or afford had the statewide program not been established.

We are proud to be members of the Montana Main Street Program and wholeheartedly believe that continuation of the Montana Main Street is crucial to the vitality and revitalization of Montana's communities. A consultant that we worked with once said, "So goes your downtown, so goes your community". The Montana Main Street Program has already done great work to positively impact the downtown's of many Montana communities- continuation of the program will ensure future successes in those communities, as well as the successes for more communities that will apply to be a part of this great program.

Sincerely,

Betty Jo Wood
Executive Director, Libby Main Street

Trent Oelberg
President, Libby Main Street